

Description

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSTALLING A PREPACKAGED
PISTON ASSEMBLY IN AN ENGINE

- 4B [01] 09/438,071 This is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09,452,071, filed on November 10, 1999. U.S. Patent No. 6,318,551

Technical Field

- [02] This invention relates generally to an internal combustion engine and more specifically to prepackaged piston assemblies which are provided with a plurality of piston rings positioned on each piston member and held in a compressed position.

Background

- [03] Internal combustion engines have numerous components which need to be assembled in order to provide a complete engine. Engine repair facilities, new engine manufacturers and engine re-manufactures are constantly looking for ways to improve quality and reduce cost of assembling engines. Many engine components are supplied by manufactures other than the engine assembly facility. Engine components such as, pistons, rings, connecting rods and wrist pins are often packaged, shipped and stored separately at the engine manufacturer or assembler. Supplying engine components in this manner is costly, and increases the opportunity to damage components.
- [04] Additionally, when used engine components have undergone an excessive amount of wear, the performance and efficiency of the engine is reduced. Engines which have undergone excessive wear are often rebuilt by replacing major components. Many of the components that are normally replaced during the rebuilding process include pistons, piston rings, connecting rods, rod bearings, and main bearings. This rebuilding of the engine brings the